09/849,644   MS150906.1/MSFTP164US

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all other versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1.   (Currently amended): A system for predicting a target file directory, comprising:

~~a component which analyzes probabilities and utilities associated with determining potential target directories for storing and accessing data.~~

a first component that infers and/or determines expected navigation costs for directory operations associated with potential target directories, wherein the expected navigation cost is based on a probabilistic and/or utility analysis; and

a second component that outputs a subset of the potential target directories, wherein the subset is determined by selecting target directories, based in part on the expected navigation cost, in order to minimize a cost of traversing directories.

2.   (Cancelled)

3.   (Currently amended): The system of claim 1, wherein the utilities are functions of navigation costs associated with traversing from a ~~displayed~~ node ~~from the~~ associated with a potential target directory under consideration to at least one of the other potential target directories.

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4.   (Currently amended): The system of claim 1, wherein the second component further determines the subset of directories based on expected utilities, which of candidate nodes to display from a directory structure are computed as functions of probabilities of target information being at a node, and the navigation costs associated with traversing from the node to at least one of the potential target directories.

5.   (Original): The system of claim 3, wherein the navigation costs are assigned by at least one of user selections and encoded within the system.

6.   (Original): The system of claim 1, wherein the potential target directories are determined from at least one of a local computer system and a remote computer system.

7.   (Original): The system of claim 1, wherein the probabilities are a function of recent and long-term file activity within a directory.

8.   (Original): The system of claim 7, wherein the long term file activity is determined from a predetermined time horizon.

9.   (Original): The system of claim 7, wherein the recent file activity is determined from frequency of access to a file.

10.   (Original): The system of claim 9, further comprising a background monitor to determine file access frequency.

11.   (Original): The system of claim 1, further comprising a list scan penalty for reducing probabilities associated with scanning lists within a directory.

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12.   (Original): The system of claim 8, wherein the list scan penalty is determined as an exponential function that decreases as the number of elements on the list increases.

13.   (Currently amended): A method for determining a potential target node for directory operations, comprising:

assigning probabilities and utilities to a plurality of potential target nodes, the utilities represent costs associated with navigating from a recommended node to an actual target node;

determining an expected utility from the probabilities and utilities associated with the plurality of target nodes; and

displaying a candidate list of likely nodes to a user based upon the expected utility.

14.   (Currently amended): The method of claim 13, ~~wherein~~ further comprising multiplying the assigned probabilities and utilities ~~are multiplied~~ together to form a product at each of the plurality of target nodes.

15.   (Currently amended): The method of claim 14, ~~wherein~~ further comprising summing the products from each of the plurality of target nodes ~~are summed~~ together to determine the expected utility for one of the plurality of potential target nodes.

16.   (Original): The method of claim 13, wherein the utilities are related to navigation costs associated with traversing from a displayed directory to at least one of the potential target directories.

17.   (Original): The method of claim 16, wherein the navigation costs are assigned by at least one of user selections and encoded within the system.

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18.   (Original): The method of claim 13, wherein the potential target nodes are determined from at least one of a local computer system and a remote computer system.

19.   (Original): The method of claim 13, wherein the probabilities are a function of recent and long-term file activity within a directory.

20.   (Original): The method of claim 19, wherein the long-term file activity is determined from a predetermined time horizon.

21.   (Original): The method of claim 19, wherein the recent file activity is determined from frequency of access to a file.

22.   (Original): The method of claim 21, further comprising,
        monitoring a user to determine file access frequency.

23.   (Original): The method of claim 13, further comprising,
        determining a list scan penalty for reducing probabilities associated with scanning lists within a directory.

24.   (Original): The method of claim 23, wherein the list scan penalty is determined as an exponential function that decreases as the number of elements on the list increases.

25.   (Original): A computer-readable medium storing the computer-executable component of claim 1.

26.   (Currently amended): A system for determining a potential target node for directory operations, comprising:

   means for assigning probabilities and utilities to a plurality of potential target nodes;

   means for determining an expected utility from the probabilities and utilities associated with the plurality of target nodes; and

   means for displaying a candidate list of likely nodes to a user based upon the expected utility, the candidate list comprises a subset of the potential target nodes.

27.   (Currently amended): A signal adapted to be transmitted between at least two processes, comprising:

   a predicting component for communicating information associated with predicting a target file directory; and

   an analyzing component which analyzes probabilities and utilities associated with determining potential target directories via the signal for storing and accessing data.

   a component that infers and/or determines suitable target directories for storing and/or accessing data based on a probabilistic and/or utility based analysis; and

   an output component that outputs a subset of the suitable target directories wherein the subset is determined based in part on a minimized cost of directory traversal analysis.

28.   (Cancelled)

29.   (Currently amended): The signal of claim 27, wherein the suitable potential target directories are determined from at least one of a local computer system and a remote computer system.

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30.   (New): The system of claim 1, the second component outputs the subset of directories as tree fragments.

31.   (New): The system of claim 1, the subset comprises N potential target directories, N is an integer that is predefined.

32.   (New): The system of claim 1, the subset comprises directories with expected navigation costs below a predetermined level.

33.   (New): The method of claim 13, displaying the candidate list in descending order from highest expected utility.

34.   (New): The method of claim 15, further comprising removing a potential target node with a maximum expected utility from consideration when evaluating expected utility for the other potential target nodes.